

The

# Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1984

Published Since 1877

## Rawls Springs minister enters "Golden Age"

By Mini Elkins  
Hattiesburg American  
Weekend Editor

"Mornin' reverend."

The wheelchair-confined man could not see the person to whom he had just spoken, but he knew the reverend immediately.

The reverend is Bill Mitchell, who, along with his wife Betty, spends his days visiting with and ministering to residents in local convalescent homes—like the blind man, who doesn't need eyes to recognize their concern... and the woman who does not have any family close by to visit her... and the resident who cannot speak back but holds to the hand stretched out to her and listens and smiles... and to the countless others who just want to talk to someone.

"They (the residents) are really not asking for anything. They want to give—to share with someone," Mitchell said. And he and his wife are making sure there is someone with whom to share.

The Mitchells last May gave up the security they had known for 16 years as pastor and minister of music at Rawls Springs Baptist Church so they could work full-time in the convalescent home ministry, the first of its kind in the state.

"The Lord really provided all our needs, including a house," Mrs. Mitchell said. A pastor in Tennessee, who was licensed and ordained at Rawls Springs, is allowing the Mitchells to live rent-free in his home near Pep's Point. In return, they are working on the house and keeping it up.

Now chartered as The Golden Age Ministry, the Mitchells rely on donations for their work. Four Lebanon Association churches have the ministry in their budgets.

The husband-wife team never see their ministry as burdensome. To the contrary, they feel they are the ones who are benefiting from the elderly friends they make.

They first became interested in this type ministry while at the Rawls Springs church. "We visited members of our church who were residents in convalescent homes, and soon we started having services on Sunday afternoons. Then six years ago, we began having Wednesday afternoon prayer meetings," Mitchell said. "We got close to the residents and really saw their needs."

He added that he was astonished when he realized that more than 80 percent of the residents never had a pastor visit them.

"There are about 650 (convalescent home) residents in Hattiesburg and Petal. Most of these have been really active in church, and it hurts them not to be able to go," Mitchell said. Statewide, he said, there are more than 17,000 convalescent home residents, and he can't understand why this ministry has not been initiated earlier. "There are chaplains in prisons, hospitals and the military—why not the convalescent homes?"

He and his wife decided that instead of waiting for someone else to do something about the situation, they would step out on faith to begin the ministry—a step they prayed about and felt led by God to take.

Although their ministry has been going on for several months, the Mitchells have not seen all the residents in the five Hattiesburg and Petal homes. They are concentrating at the present time on special needs.

"You just can't spread yourself that thin," Mrs. Mitchell said.

Betty Mitchell has begun two Bible studies at two homes. One has reached about 50 in attendance.

"A lot of these residents don't have families who live closeby. It means a

lot to them to have someone they recognize come in," Mitchell said.

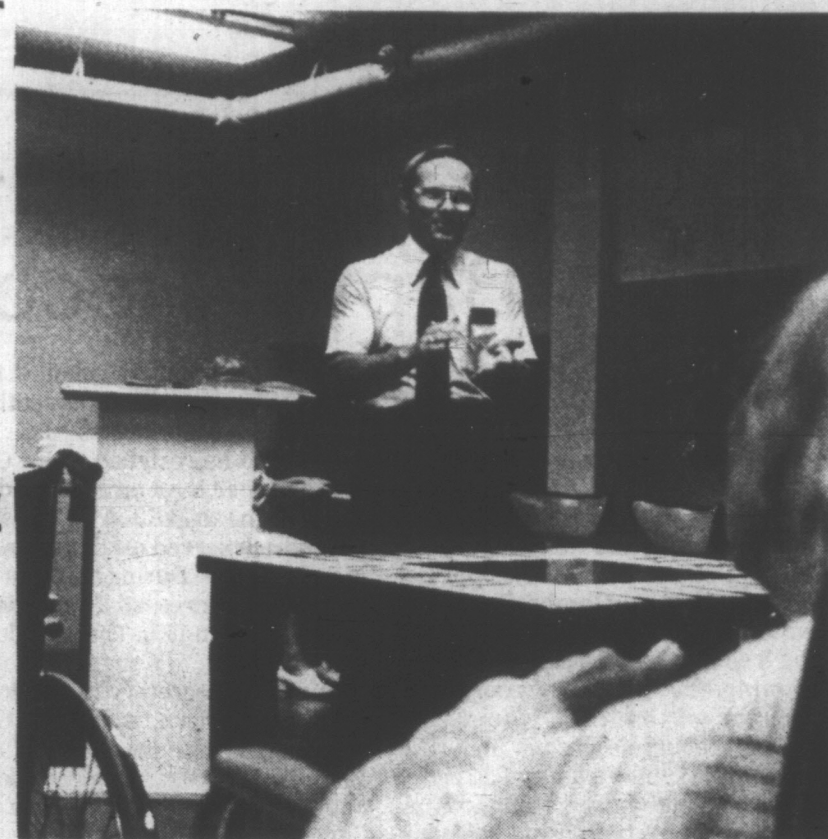
Holidays especially are lonesome for them, he added, so he and his wife are working on a plan where each resident will be matched with a family. This past Christmas 40 residents were "adopted." They hope that church Sunday Schools and organizations, civil groups and individuals will be interested.

This plan and any work the Mitchells do with the residents are in co-operation with the homes and their social and activities directors.

"We have become very attached to these people. They are just like family," Mrs. Mitchell said of the home residents. That means when one dies, it's like losing a member of the family. But the Mitchells look on death positively.

"We teach them what the Bible says about death—Jesus called it 'asleep in Christ.' There will be an awakening."

"These people see death around them all the time. Probably once a month. We try to help them understand what it means and comfort them," Mitchell said.



Bill Mitchell preaches to an audience in wheelchairs.

"A few weeks ago, one of the residents was talking with me about the death of one of her friends a few doors down the hall. She expressed her fear of death," Mitchell said.

"I reassured her of the love and presence of God. Then I related to her how Betty and I enjoyed fishing, staying sometimes until dark. This gives us the added pleasure of watching the sunset together. I told her that the sunset is always more beautiful and inspiring when you watch it with someone you love."

"She smiled and said 'I'm not by myself. God is watching with me,'" Mitchell said. This incident, he said, pretty well sums up what he and his wife are trying to do.

"We want to help make their lives as rich and meaningful as possible. We want them to know we will be back tomorrow. Betty and I truly love these people. We want them to know they are not alone. We are there with them to watch the sunset. And God is with them."

(Story and photos courtesy—The Hattiesburg American.)



"The reverend" points out the next good move in a game of Checkers.

### What's Inside?

Editorials by Don  
McGregor, Page 2  
Baptist Record birthday

Faces and Places by Anne  
McWilliams, Page 5  
Shirley Berry

Children's Village gets new  
satellite, Page 3

Devotional: The challenge  
of change, Page 10



# Editorials..... by don mcgregor

## Baptist Record birthday

February is the anniversary month for the **Baptist Record**. The paper was established in 1877, so with this issue we are 107 years of age. The paper was begun by J. B. Gambrell in February of 1877 in a house that still stands across the street from the football stadium at Mississippi College in Clinton. Gambrell was the editor, and M. Thomas Martin was the business manager. From the beginning the **Baptist Record** was thought of as the "convention paper," though it was not under the immediate supervision and direction of the convention, according to R. A. McLemore in his History of Mississippi Baptists. Appeals were made at the conventions from the support of the **Baptist Record**.

Under private ownership it was moved to Meridian for a while, but it was still considered the convention's medium of information. During the 1888 convention W. T. Lowery made an appeal in behalf of the **Baptist Record**, and in 1889 the convention passed a resolution of support.

In 1896 a stock company called the Mississippi Baptist Publishing Company was formed and assumed the ownership of the **Baptist Record**. J. B. Searcy became editor, and T. J. Bailey became the business manager. Subsequently, Searcy resigned; and Bailey became the editor.

The convention became interested in purchasing the paper, and along about 1909 Bailey offered his stock in Mississippi Baptist Publishing Company to the convention at a financial loss to himself. It was bought by P. I. Lipsey, however; and in 1912 he began a 30-year tenure as editor, perhaps the longest editorial career in the history of religious journalism, McLemore pointed out.

The paper prospered under Lipsey and was bought by the convention in 1919. Lipsey continued as editor until 1942. When he resigned, A. L. Goodrich, who had been circulation director, became the editor.

Goodrich served until his death on March 14, 1956. During his tenure the circulation increased from 4,000 in 1935 to 89,000 in 1956. This was due, to a great extent, to a suggestion made by a church secretary in Sunflower, Josie McEachern, who gave Goodrich the idea for the Every Family Plan. This concept has been adopted nationwide. Mrs. McEachern died Dec. 7, 1980, in Eupora at 90 years of age.

W. C. Fields, then pastor of First Church, Yazoo City, and now assistant to the executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and director of public relations, followed Goodrich. Joe Abrams, who had been manning the Promotion Department, became the associate editor.

When Fields joined the SBC Executive Committee staff in 1959, Joe Odle became editor. Odle, former pastor in Crystal Springs and Gulfport, was then associate executive secretary. Abrams continued as associate editor until his retirement on Dec. 31, 1974; and Don McGregor, present editor, succeeded him. Odle retired on Aug. 31, 1976.

Other staff members at this time are Tim Nicholas, associate editor,

who continues to serve also in the public information area as did Abrams; Anne McWilliams, editorial associate who is approaching her 31st anniversary; Evelyn Keyes, advertising manager and editor's secretary with nearly 18 years tenure; Florence Larrimore, assistant in public information, proof reader, and darkroom technician, who has been with the paper more than 13 years; Renee Walley, circulation manager who has been with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board more than 10 years and with the **Baptist Record** five years; Betty Anne Bailey, the bookkeeper with a six-year tenure; and Gail Wood, data input operator who has been with the **Baptist Record** two years after serving with the business office of the Convention Board for two years. Both Mrs. Larrimore and Mrs. Bailey also spent a year with the business office in addition to the **Baptist Record** tenures.

Baptists operate in a democratic system. For such a system to function satisfactorily, information is necessary. This is the function of the **Baptist Record**. Our work is to keep Mississippi Baptists informed so that the democratic system can be functional.

In addition, we feel that our purpose is to help the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention be better able to carry out their mission of witnessing to the world. The world begins in the pew.

## Guest opinion . . .

# Lost — 300,000 Mississippi Baptists

By Guy Henderson

These are the "inactive" members on church rolls across our state. While they may be saved regarding their salvation, they are lost as far as their value to the Kingdom of God. They are lost as to their obedience to Christ. These spiritual dropouts are lost to the church and Christian service in the community.

Trying to get their children involved in church is often a lost cause. Thousands of dollars never reach the mission fields of the world because their tithes and offerings are lost. Lost is the contribution they could make in the fellowship of the body of Christ.

Yet one day these "lost" Baptists walked down the aisle of a church, accepted Christ as their Savior, were baptized, and became members of the churches. Why this backslidden condition? Where did they go astray? Where did the church go wrong in seeking to minister to them?

Speculation is interesting but not always accurate. "He's just an old sorehead," "Never really converted," "Got a chip on his shoulder," "Square peg in an unsquare area," "Too worldly," and on and on the list could continue. These would be the words of the dropper, not what would the dropee say!

"Folks were unfriendly," "never got anything out of it," "always asking for money," "music, or Sunday School, or some other program was too far out," "too loud, too liberal, or too conservative," "the church demanded too much of my time," or "we intended to get back, but now we are too busy."

Now that all the name calling is over, where do we really stand. The fact is, most of them never intended to be a dropout. Like a boat tied at the dock, the mooring loosened a little each week, and finally was untied completely. After that the tide swept it on down the river. Now and then there is a yen to be back in the fold, but the tide is too strong to buck.

Some are like a sheep that wanders off. The poor sheep never recognizes the danger he is in; the shepherd does and hastens to find him. The danger is also real for the ecclesiastical Tom Sawyer of today as they leave their spiritual home.

The real question is, what can be done about it? We tried to: (1) Ignore them. This works beautifully in the out-of-sight, out-of-mind church philosophy; but it is hardly the correct attitude. (2) We've consigned some to a smaller mansion and fewer rewards—which takes care of the fu-

ture but does little for today. (3) There have been some sporadic attempts, mostly during revivals; but this faded rapidly in the face of stony receptions at the front door. Exhausted, we sat by and sighed, "They know where we are when they want to come" This inactive bunch, the wild and the restless, constitute 50 percent of the church membership on the average. This bottom line tells us it equals 6,000,000 in the Southern Baptist Convention, over 300,000 in Mississippi, and \_\_\_\_\_ in my church. These people, without a Rock to stand on, have problems and hurt too. Some are unemployed, financially plagued, facing debts, problems with their children, or with their parents. Some are wealthy and feel little need of an eternal life policy. All will be facing old age and eventually death, and the church will have little part in the momentous events yet to come. Is there no balm in Gilead for these wounded ones?

Strange it is that we cover so many ministries and have naught for this one. We have a minister of youth, senior citizens, children's workers, etc., but I've yet to hear of a full time staff member whose primary task is to minister to the 50 percent bracket which seldom or never comes to

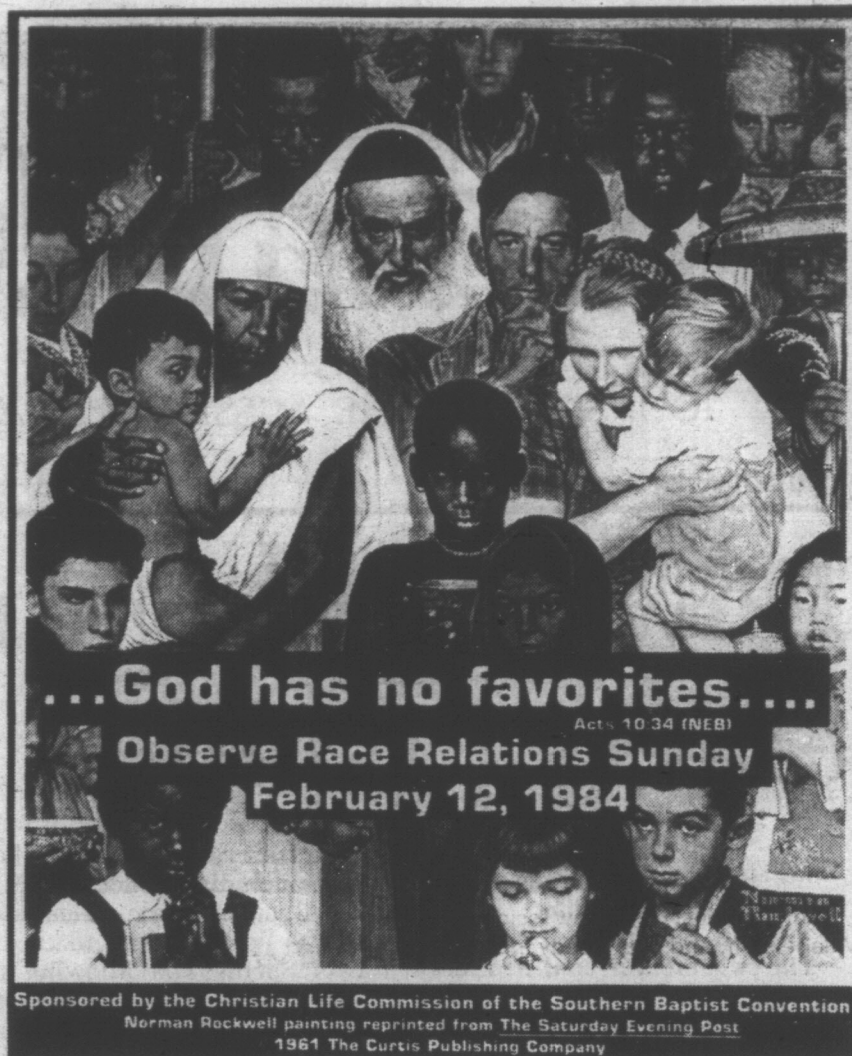
church.

Dr. John Savage calls them the "apathetic and bored church members" and in a book by the same title notes that people seldom leave the church for theological reasons. Personal conflicts with church leadership or within the membership lead to the use of "they," "those," "that clique," in their conversation.

To reach the disinterested member will take a trained visitor. One good visit can bring in 30 percent, one visit for every year they have been out of the church will bring in another 20 percent, and the remaining 50 percent are out for good, according to Savage. The visitor will need the proper concept of what he is doing, be a good listener, and be able to cope with anger.

In reclaiming these members we could cause rejoicing in heaven, minister to some deep spiritual needs, and advance the kingdom of God on this earth. This "lost tribe" is in need of the ministry of the church more than ever. Can we afford to write them off?

Guy Henderson is director of evangelism for Mississippi Baptists.



## The Baptist Record

(ISSN-0005-5778)

515 Mississippi Street

P.O. Box 530

Jackson, Miss. 39205

Don McGregor Editor  
Tim Nicholas Associate Editor  
Anne McWilliams Editorial Associate

Journal of  
The Mississippi Baptist  
Convention

Charles Pickering  
President  
Earl Kelly  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:  
Bruce Hill, Lexington; Odis Henderson, Cleveland, vice-chairman; Tom Hudson, Jackson, chairman; Owen Lusk, Columbia; Robert H. Jackson, Brandon; Dan Thompson, Ackerman; Ex-officio, Evelyn Keyes, secretary.

Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance.

Published weekly except week of July 4 and Christmas.

Second Class Postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi.

The Baptist Record is a member of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

Volume CVIII

Number 1





Tammy, oldest of the new residents at Reedy Acres, greets Karl McGraw, of the Village staff, and Guy Reedy, pastor of First Church, Water Valley.

# The Baptist Record

## Children's Village gets Water Valley satellite

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

A new \$170,000 child care cottage opened last week four miles south of Water Valley. It is in an addition to four satellite homes that the Baptist Children's Village already operated across the state, plus its Jackson campus.

In a service at First Church, Water Valley, on Wednesday evening, Jan. 25, the pastor, Guy Reedy, presented the deed to Kermit D. McGregor, president of the Children's Village Board of Trustees and pastor of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

Though First Church, Water Valley, initiated the project and organized it, said Reedy, nine other Yalobusha Baptist churches and many individuals have contributed.

Paul N. Nunnery, executive director of the Children's Village, expressed thanks for the Village staff and cottage residents, and announced that the house and its surrounding 17 1/2 acres will be named Reedy Acres in honor of the pastor who set many of the wheels in motion that helped to make this dream come true.

Reedy revealed that plans are underway to construct a second cottage this year on Reedy Acres and that nearly \$100,000 has already been paid or promised on it.

Also on Jan. 25, eight children and young people moved into the new facility, in readiness to start to schools in the area the next day. (The house has a 12-person capacity.) The houseparents, Mr. and Mrs. James Ham, had moved in two weeks before. Nunnery said, "The children are pleased, excited, delighted, to be living here."

Doyle Cummings, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Children's Village Board of Trustees and pastor of First Church, Itta Bena, delivered the dedicatory message. He said that it took vision to build this home, as it took vision for David and Solomon to build the Temple. It took volition—a willingness to build. "The people had the determination and have chosen to dedicate themselves to the child care field, and so they

have gained the victory being celebrated here tonight."

The Ladies Ensemble, directed by Leland Hurt Jr., presented special music, "The Lighthouse." Others on program were Billy D. Riley, chairman of deacons, First, Water Valley, and Marvin Bibb, director of missions, Yalobusha and Calhoun counties. Officials and staff members of the Village were present as guests.

The project began in a definite way in 1980, Reedy said, in the office of Pete Brown, owner of Motts, Inc. "We talked of philanthropic gifts, and his desire to contribute to some worthwhile humanitarian cause. As I mentioned a child care cottage, he reflected an interest." Then he mentioned \$25,000 and later gave that much on the cottage.

Soon afterward, not knowing of the conversation between Reedy and Brown, Jimmy and Shirley Berry offered some land for a children's home (See "Faces and Places" on p. 5). The Berrys, members of First Church, Coffeeville, are former members of First, Water Valley.

In 1981, Arnold Wayne Carothers, president of Carothers Construction Co., gave \$25,000 "for a child care cottage." Then the church voted to sponsor the project and take the initiative in constructing a facility. Since then, money has come from many sources. First Church, Coffeeville, gave \$25,000. Twenty-five men built the children's beds.

The following story which Reedy shared with his congregation is illustrative of the way he feels that God directed the whole undertaking:

"In December of 1982 I found it necessary to go to Clarksdale one day. As I neared Batesville I realized it was near noon (about 11:30) so I decided to stop for a sandwich. As I approached the restaurant that I had stopped at on several other occasions, I decided to go on to Clarksdale for lunch. Before I got to the junction with Highway 51, I decided that if I went on I would get to the restaurant there at their busiest noon-day time so I turned around to go back to the Bar-be-que place where I had eaten before.

"Before I got where I thought I was going I felt constrained to stop at yet another fast-food sandwich shop, even though I had never eaten there. As I sat finishing my lunch, to my surprise there entered the familiar face of Joe Lowe. After he and his son had ordered, Joe, with whom I had not talked in months, sat down with me and said, 'For weeks I have been wanting to see you. Tell me about this Child Care Cottage Project.'

"With delight I shared with him what was going on. His response was that he and his wife Sylvia, would

(Continued on page 4)

## Senate panel okays ambassador funding

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP)—A Senate appropriations panel has informally approved a State Department request to reprogram funds to pay for a full diplomatic mission to the Vatican, but its House of Representatives counterpart has held up action pending an early February hearing.

Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary, has given the State Department his approval of a request to reprogram fiscal 1984 funds for the Vatican mission, according to a subcommittee spokesman.

Laxalt's approval, the spokesman said, noted the objection of Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., ranking minority member of the panel and an outspoken opponent of the Reagan administration's decision to end a 116-year-old U.S. policy against full diplomatic relations with the Holy See.

Reprogramming requests from federal agencies—such as the one from the State Department for Vatican mission funding—no longer require formal approval of the congressional appropriations committees with jurisdiction over their funding. However, House and Senate subcommittee spokesmen agree the State Department is unlikely to go against the informal disapproval of appropriations panels on either side of Capitol Hill.

Although other members of the Senate subcommittee may join Hollings in opposing the move, a panel spokesman said Laxalt, considered President Reagan's closest friend in the Senate, is not likely to back away from his support of the White House on the controversial issue.

The House Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies, chaired by Rep. Neal Smith, D-Iowa, has scheduled a Feb. 6 hearing to consider the reprogramming re-

quest. The State Department has asked for a shift in its fiscal 1984 budget to provide \$833,000 and a staff of nine for the Vatican embassy. The current State Department budget includes \$481,000 for the four-person staff of presidential representative William A. Wilson to the Vatican.

A House subcommittee spokesman said the hearing was scheduled to hear only from State Department witnesses on the reprogramming request but did not rule out the panel looking at the underlying controversy surrounding the appointment of an ambassador to the Vatican.

The hearing will be the first Vatican embassy-related forum in the 98th Congress, despite action last year repealing the long-standing ban on funding of a diplomatic mission to the Holy See. Early this year, the White House established full diplomatic ties with the Vatican and named Wilson, who faces confirmation hearings in the Senate, as ambassador.

Larry Chesser is a Baptist Press representative in Washington, D.C., on the staff of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.



The newest satellite of the Baptist Children's Village has been named Reedy Acres, for Guy Reedy, pastor of First Church, Water Valley.

## Banquet tickets available

Tickets for the missionary appointment service banquet at the Gulf Coast coliseum in Biloxi April 9, at 7 p.m., are available from the office of Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Cost of the banquet is \$15 per person and may be obtained by writing Kelly at Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

The banquet will have as guests the missionaries to be commissioned the following evening at the coliseum, the Foreign Mission Board staff and board members, and MBCB staffers.

Requests for reservations must be in the office by April 2, Kelly said. There will be chamber music during the banquet, and Naymond Thomas of Jackson will be in charge of the special music. The banquet will provide a time of fellowship with the new appointees, the elected members of the Foreign Mission Board, the Foreign Mission Board staff members, and members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board staff, Kelly noted.

A reservation form for the banquet is printed below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of reservations requested \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$15 times number of reservations)





Guy Reedy, pastor of First, Water Valley, left, presents the deed to a new satellite Village campus to Kermit McGregor, right, president, Board of Trustees, Baptist Children's Village, and Paul Nunnery, executive director, Children's Village.

## Village gets new satellite

(Continued from page 3)

want to contribute and they have. As I left for the rest of my journey, I asked myself how it came to pass that I was in that particular cafe on that particular day at that precise 30-minute span of time and an acquaintance who lives 30 miles away would

also come in and say 'For weeks I have wanted to see you . . . I didn't waste much time trying to figure out the obvious. I simply assumed my posture where I sit on the mountain's peak and watch God work through people.'

## Fugitive pastor turns up in Baltimore area

BALTIMORE (EP)—A fugitive Baptist minister turned up in the Baltimore area this weekend, vowing he "will not go back to surrender" to Nebraska authorities who want to question him about his controversial Faith Christian School.

Everett Sileven, 44, appeared at the Club Hill Presbyterian Church in suburban Baltimore County to try to build support for what he calls a battle over religious freedom. Sileven is wanted for contempt of court for refusing to testify about the Louisville, Neb., school. Six fathers of students at the school have been jailed since Thanksgiving for refusing to testify. A seventh father was released earlier this month when he agreed to answer questions.

Nebraska is investigating the school to see if its teachers are certified to teach, according to Harold Mosher, who is Nebraska's deputy attorney general and who has handled the case.

Sileven, who has spent 120 days behind bars for refusing to testify and has evaded Nebraska authorities since a warrant for his arrest was issued in November, said he hopes the issue will be settled in federal court.

But his hopes that federal intervention would help his fight received a sharp setback Friday when Clarence Pendleton, the head of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, said the matter should be settled between the church and the state court.

Sileven said if the federal court refuses to release the jailed fathers and the arrest warrants remain in force, he is prepared to return to Nebraska "when it is gauged that we need that kind of pressure on state and federal authorities and even on the president." But, he added, "I will not go back to surrender, and there will be 1,000 preachers there to resist the sheriff when he comes for me."

## Seminary dean named Georgetown president

GEORGETOWN, Ky. (BP)—W. Morgan Patterson, dean of academic affairs at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., has been elected president of Georgetown College.

He will assume duties as president of the 155-year-old Kentucky Baptist institution April 1, succeeding Ben E. Elrod, who resigned June 30, 1983, after five years as president.

Patterson, a native of New Orleans, is in his eighth year as academic dean at the Southern Baptist seminary.

Patterson was pastor of Stapleton Baptist Church, Stapleton, Ala., and Progress Baptist Church in Progress, Miss. He has also been interim pastor of churches in Louisiana, Mississippi, Kentucky, Indiana, and California.

# Kansas City housing Message makes staff changes

By Craig Bird

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Anyone wanting to attend the 1984 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Kansas City next June should have no trouble getting a hotel room.

The remaining rooms won't be within walking distance of the convention center, but most have easy access to freeways and/or six shuttle bus routes which will operate to and from the convention site. The exact routes have not been determined.

Quite a few people who thought they would be able to walk to sessions may have to join those in hotels on the outskirts of Kansas City though. The Kansas City convention housing bureau has notified the SBC Executive Committee the Dixon Hotel (two blocks from the convention center) is being closed and its future is uncertain.

"We had been given 150 rooms at the Dixon," Tim Hedquist, director of financial planning for the Executive Committee, said. "Those people will be informed of their new rooms by the Kansas City bureau directly—the Executive Committee will have no control or knowledge of the shifts."

Hedquist pointed out the housing bureau received 6,000 requests for the 4,000 rooms they set aside for the convention but Kansas City has more than 13,000 hotel rooms.

"Even if the housing bureau had taken all 13,000 rooms to assign itself, there still would have been just 3,000 rooms 'close in' and those are the rooms everyone wants," he continued.

Under the procedures used by the Kansas City bureau, applications were stacked according to first choice then filled until the allocated space was used up. "Those who studied the system realized if they

put down a first choice a hotel other than the ones across the street their odds for getting a room downtown increased considerably," Hedquist said.

As a result, all of the rooms were filled with first choices.

Bureau personnel feel many applications included bogus names and one individual sent in 100 separate room requests. Under the system, one credit card can guarantee any number of rooms even if the person is not listed to stay in those rooms and names can be changed after the reservations have been confirmed.

"Technically all these tactics are legal but it sure works against the layman from a small town who didn't know the system," Hedquist said.

It also worked against many SBC agencies. Last week the Baptist Sunday School Board and the Home Mission Board called looking for additional rooms and many agency personnel whose jobs require them to be at the convention have reservations in the outlying hotels.

Hedquist said the 1985 convention in Dallas will see changes in the housing bureau system. "The Dallas people have agreed to process application forms one at a time instead of stacking them by first choice, to require the reservation be confirmed by someone staying in the room, and not to allow the substitution of names without notifying the housing bureau."

Anyone still seeking room reservations can contact: Housing Information, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tenn., 37219, to request a list of Kansas City hotels so they can make reservations directly.

(Craig Bird is Baptist Press Feature editor.)

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)—The Louisiana Baptist Message has announced the resignation of associate editor Oscar Hoffmeyer Jr., and the hiring of Marv Knox as associate editor.

Hoffmeyer, associate editor for 10 years, resigned to become director of public relations for the Louisiana Baptist Convention. He replaces Dick Davis who became outdoor editor for an Alexandria daily newspaper and independent producer of an outdoor sports television series.

Before Hoffmeyer announced his decision, the Baptist Message board had enlisted Knox to join the staff as a second associate editor. Knox, a student at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., began work with the Message Feb. 1.

Hoffmeyer, 60, came to the Baptist Message from Baylor University, Waco, Texas, where he was assistant professor of journalism. Before that he was director of news services and chairman of the journalism department of Louisiana College. He previously worked with the Missouri Baptist Children's Home and the Times-Picayune of New Orleans.

Knox, 27, works as director of information services at Southern where he is completing his master of divinity degree. He worked previously as assistant news editor for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, and as a staff writer for the Abilene Reporter-News in Texas.

He also worked as a summer intern for the Colorado Rocky Mountain Baptist and as news writer for the Texas Baptist Children's Home.

Hoffmeyer serves as president of the Southern Baptist Public Relations Association, one of the largest denominational public relations organization in the world.

### CLASSIFIED

RATE: 50¢ per word \$5.00 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code and phone number in word count. No blind ads.

**CHURCH PEW CUSHIONS:** Manufactured in our plant. For free estimate contact — Emmons Brothers, P. O. Box 186, Meridian, Miss. 39301. Since 1899. Phone (601) 693-4451.

**RENT 3 bedroom FURNISHED HOUSE** near Mississippi Gulf Coast beach. One hour drive to World's Fair. Shuttle train available. (601) 956-5596.

**COMPLETE LIGHTING SYSTEM.** Ideal for church softball field. Includes lights, poles, wires, and switches. \$3,750. Call George Todd, Jackson (601) 366-3229.

**FOR SALE: 2 Bose Model 800 SPEAKERS; 1 Bose Model 800 ACTIVE EQUALIZER.** Contact Antioch Baptist Church, Columbus. Phone (601) 328-4765.

Now Available

## MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT

Companion 770  
High Option Plan

Helps pay for what Medicare doesn't pay — Benefits for:

- Hospital, nurses and first three pints of blood.
- All Medicare, Part A, deductibles for hospitalization
- 100% of eligible hospital charges beyond Medicare, Part A, for an additional 365 days
- Physicians and Surgeons expense benefit, payable in or out of hospital
- Skill Nursing Home or Extended Care Facility
- Prescription Drugs & Medicines at Home

(Endorsement-73)

For Full Information Phone 924-4442

Or Fill out Coupon and Mail to:

**Equitable Life and Casualty Ins. Co.  
Hutton Insurance Agency**

P.O. Box 20257, Jackson, MS 39209

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Underwritten by Equitable Life and Casualty Ins. Co.

BR2



# Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

## Shirley Berry

Across the table from me sat a lovely lady with laughing eyes. "That's Shirley Berry," Ruth Glaze told me. "She and her husband, Jimmy, gave the land for Reedy Acres." (That's the new satellite home of the Baptist Children's Village. Story on page 3.)

W.D. and I spent the night in Water Valley with Betty Sue and Charlie and Candy Harris; and next morning we stopped by to see Shirley, and Reedy Acres, four miles south of Water Valley. Her house, on a hill above highway 7, looks out on woods and lake. The Berrys moved there about 13 years ago and have reworked an old house into a fantastically beautiful and interesting spot. The outside was bricked; three bedrooms were built in the attic; and all wallpaper was stripped off to reveal the original ceiling. The furniture is antique. The walls of the den display old farm tools, and the mirrors of one bathroom came from an old depot in Memphis. "You ought to be written up in *Southern Living*," I told her.

We walked down the hill a short way, and could see the new child care cottage across the meadow. Besides their own children, the Berrys have cared for many foster children, in summers and on holidays. Shirley and Jimmy envisioned a house, or houses, for children "over there by those pine trees." Then they shared with each other what they felt the Lord was saying to them. (They are members of First, Coffeeville, now, but then they were members of First, Water Valley.) She told her pastor, Guy Reedy, they wanted to give some land for child care use. They offered 25 acres, but in the end the plot given measured 17 1/2. "The Lord knew that we had 170 acres and he took a tithe! For some time, we were concerned about taking care of our children's future, their college education, and so forth. But God said, 'You take care of my children and I'll take care of yours.'"

Shirley shared with us her testimony:

Her daddy died when she was 12 (she was not raised in a Christian home) "he left Mother and five of us kids with a beer joint—that kind of life made you grow up fast." She married and had her first child at age 15. By 17 she had a second child. "I can see how a 19-year-old could not handle that kind of responsibility"—and so her husband left her.

Again she married, this time not for love, but for someone to take care of her and the children. At age 21, she had three boys and was expecting a fourth child. "I didn't think I had anything to live for. The children and I were abused daily by my husband, an alcoholic."

Then one night she was listening to a television program in which a preacher explained the way of salvation. "There in my living room I accepted Christ as my Savior." Soon afterward, a pastor stopped by and said, "We need you at our church."



Shirley Berry and her daughter, Jammy, 13, are both musicians. (Shirley's husband, Jimmy, was away from home last week driving a train. He is an engineer, sometimes on the Panama Limited and sometimes on other trains out of Memphis.)

"But all I know how to do is to change diapers."

"Praise the Lord!" the preacher said. "We can use your talents in the nursery."

"He made me feel so important!"

Sometimes others took over the nursery and she went to Sunday School. Though she didn't have a Bible, they would pass Bibles around and each would read a verse. "I was afraid when my turn came I couldn't read the verse, for I had only gone through the seventh grade." Finally one day this did happen. She was handed a Bible and asked to read a verse—and she fainted. She prayed she could learn to read the Bible, so she could teach her kids. She memorized the children's Sunday School books and then she would teach those stories to the children at church. Later she learned to read the Bible and started teaching adults. Her husband didn't like all this church going, and finally they got a divorce. He didn't offer any kind of support for her and the children, so the church helped her start a day care center as her means of earning a living. She went back to high school and got her diploma. "I prayed every day that the Lord would give me strength to get through that day."

Then at age 32 she walked into a cafe one day and all the seats were taken. A good-looking man sitting in the corner asked her to share his booth. He was a railroad engineer from Water Valley—Jimmy Berry. He loved children, he said, and he loved God. Soon he and Shirley also came to love each other, got married, and had a daughter. They moved to the country place.

Shirley and her children began singing with a country band. "We forgot about God for a while. But God lets you know when you are doing something he doesn't want you to do." During thyroid surgery, Shirley's vocal chords were damaged,

## Diplomas at Cliff Temple

Editor:

"Have you ever wondered what happened to all those Church Study Course Credit Request Forms and why you filled them out?" I asked as I distributed Christian Development diplomas during the Baptist Women meeting at Cliff Temple Church, Natchez. The ladies heartily applauded those receiving diplomas with three seals representing one hundred hours of Christian education. Two of the ladies leading the applause were quite unaware they were to receive further honors. In the following Sunday morning worship service, Mrs. Margaret Hill and Mrs. Edith Martin were congratulated by W. G. Dowdy, pastor, and presented framed Advanced Christian Development Diplomas. Neither Mrs. Hill nor Mrs. Martin realized they had accumulated approximately 140 hours of church study course credits; moreover, neither of these ladies sought recognition for their personal development and church involvement. Margaret Hill and Edith Martin are, quite simply, two fine Christian ladies who faithfully serve and love their church and their Lord.

Elaine Jordan  
Church Secretary

## Stop the ambassador

Editor:

Many thanks for your editorial "Ambassadorship violates Constitution" in the Jan. 19 issue of the Baptist Record. The President's decision is a certain violation of the principle of separation of church and state and establishes a special relationship with the Roman Catholic Church.

Some possibility still exists that the process could be stalled. Both the House and Senate Appropriations committees could refuse to approve the State Department's request to reprogram funds for a Vatican ambassador; there is some indication that this may happen. Also, the Se-

and she had to learn all over again how to talk and sing.

Then she and Jimmy had the vision of giving land where houses—maybe five—could be built for children who needed homes.

Early in 1983 the Berrys went with a medical team on a volunteer mission to Honduras. Jimmy assisted the medics and Shirley sang and played the autoharp. She was not feeling well before she went, but would not give up and go to the doctor. Back home, though, she spent five months in bed. "The Lord had some lessons to teach me."

Doctors said that her muscles were deteriorating, and that the gland which produces calcium had been accidentally removed at the time of her thyroid operation. Also they said she has a serious and incurable skin disease. Both illnesses are in remission now, she told me.

She has spoken in Christian Women's Clubs and in churches and said she will be at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, soon during a lay renewal emphasis. With her testimony she also sings, and often shares music she has composed.

# Letters to the Editor

nate Foreign Relations Committee must clear the President's nominee; at the very least the entire issue might be aired in those committee hearings.

It's not too late for Americans to communicate outrage to their representatives in Washington. President Harry Truman had an ambassador appointed and ready to fly to Rome when opposition forced him to abandon his attempt to open diplomatic relations with the Vatican. Baptists who care about separation of church and state ought to point out to their Senators and Congressmen the dangers of favoring any religion over another.

Robert Dilday  
Special Assistant  
Baptist Joint Committee  
on Public Affairs  
Washington, D.C.

Jamie Whitten, Tupelo, is chairman of the Appropriations Committee of the House. Both Mississippi senators, John Stennis and Thad Cochran, are members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The Senate address is United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. The House address is House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.—Editor

"... and some to be evangelists"

Editor:

Our state is blessed with some choice people known as full-time evangelists. Some are preaching evangelists, and some are singing evangelists. They serve all over the nation and in conferences and retreats. They are gifted men and women, called of God, and often are denied things we accept for granted. They travel many miles; endure long, lonely weeks away from home; have no steady income; and are in a

different church almost every week.

Maintaining a church home is difficult at best, and yet they are part of the church. They need the ministry of a local congregation, and they desire to minister to such a group. This work is part of the church, in the church, and yet can be apart from the church.

Would it not be proper for every evangelist to belong to a church staff. His ministry then becomes an extension of the church's ministry. He would feel the support of the "koinonia," and his work would be greatly enhanced. During the weeks when he is home he could share the victories and defeats and be renewed and affirmed by the church.

The church may desire to assist him in mailing privileges, to include him in group hospitalization or annuity plans, and to invite him to staff social functions. He would thus feel attached to his "home" church rather than feeling he labors on the periphery of the church's ministry. The work of vocational evangelists should be in the main stream of our church life.

This is an area where the pastors and churches must take the initiative. They have knocked at our door. Will we arise and say, "Friend, I have nothing to give thee." Or, will we recognize and affirm their ministry and invite them in to be a viable part of church life. How grateful we are to note this has been done in several churches in our state. It is a lesson, for they too have been busy for the "perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." Now, let's see to it that "the whole body is fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth."

Guy Henderson  
Mississippi Baptist  
Evangelism director

**"President Draper has charted a course which all of us can follow."** —Dr. Herschel H. Hobbs

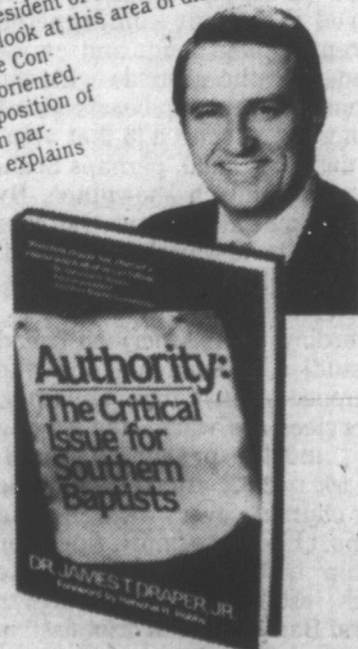
The subject of biblical authority is a much-debated topic among Southern Baptists today.

In **AUTHORITY: THE CRITICAL ISSUE FOR SOUTHERN BAPTISTS**, Dr. James T. Draper, Jr., president of the Southern Baptist Convention, takes a thought-provoking look at this area of discussion and suggests vital solutions to keep the Convention doctrinally pure and missions-oriented.

Dr. Draper traces the historic position of the church as a whole, and Baptists in particular, concerning the Bible. And he explains the relatively recent shift from a biblical base to a rationalistic base. His loving, peace-minded approach will do much to resolve this issue in the minds of his readers.

Look for this crucial new book in your nearest bookstore today. It's in hardcover, at only \$7.95.

Revell  
FLEMING H. REVELL  
COMPANY





## China as we saw it . . .

## Part IV: Shanghai and Guilin

By Marvin and Jean Bond

After another enjoyable train ride, we arrived in Shanghai. The city has old European style mansions in disrepair and new buildings without style and personality. Everywhere they are reminders of Shanghai's past. Understandably, the Chinese resent the former foreign domination of that city. They are quick to tell you the shortcomings of Old Shanghai and to quote improvements since liberation.

And Shanghai does appear to be more prosperous, more open, and more progressive than the other cities we visited, with the possible exception of Canton. Home for more than 11 million, Shanghai covers a large land area. Although the city is not a place of beauty, in the countryside field after field displays the jade green of year-round agriculture.

One of the highlights of our trip was a visit to a commune. First, there was the briefing session in their welcoming room. While the spokesperson for this 1,200-acre commune gave information, we sipped tea. She spoke in a quiet voice, and our Shanghai guide translated her remarks into English. Her short, straight hairstyle seemed appropriate for the traditional blue suit she wore. We tried to analyze her words and her spirit—were her eyes very tired or were they steel? Was she weary or bored with tourists? Perhaps we will never know.

She fingered her cup as she recited statistics. Even though we knew this commune was a model for tourists' benefit, we concluded that those who live on the farm are more fortunate than others who live in crowded city housing without adequate transportation.

Our tour of the commune included some of the fields, the dairy, a store, a kindergarten, a peasant's home, and the radio stations. At the peasant's home we noticed speakers affixed to the wall; we wondered if the occupants could turn off the broadcasts.

As we watched the people at work, admired the adept kindergarten children at ping pong, and as we walked over the grounds with the commune leader, our hearts ached that there is no church in that area.

On the other hand, perhaps Shanghai is the church showplace. By May 1983 nine Protestant churches and one Catholic church had opened, while other churches were being renovated for opening.

According to an American friend who studied in Shanghai and who worshipped in six of those churches, the services are warm, the singing lively, and the preaching sound. From 500 to 2,000 attend each of the larger churches every week. Among the churches once more open for worship is the Old North Gate Church; established in 1847, it was the first Baptist church organized in the Central China Mission.

Before "liberation" (the take-

over by the Communists in 1949), Shanghai was an important center for Baptist work; and many of our missionaries lived in that city. The True Light Building housed the Publication Society, the offices of the China Baptist Convention, and was headquarters for WMU and Young People's organizations. Other work in Shanghai included a seminary and a university.

Today, less than a dozen churches in such a populous city seem so few, yet who knows what the Lord can do through his faithful followers?

It was early to rise on Sunday to place our luggage in the hall before 5 a.m. Because of our early flight our guide presented to each of us a box breakfast to eat on the plane—numerous small cakes, two hard boiled eggs, and an apple. No coffee. For the third time in China, we had seats in what would be first class if China's planes had class sections.

After a comfortable flight, and as our plane neared our destination, we could hardly believe what we saw below. All around spread the panorama of mountains and water scenery. The scenery of Guilin, some of the most beautiful in the world, is unlike anything we had ever seen. Solitary mountains jut out of the green plains.

Guilin is the place to enjoy the water buffalo, to enter caves of splendor, to observe fishermen practicing their skills on narrow bamboo rafts, to view mist-shrouded mountains from the Li River.

Our one chance to attend a church service was to be Guilin; we were to be there on Sunday. Unfortunately China Travel delayed us in Shanghai for an extra day. Even then our early morning flight gave hope that we would arrive in time for the service after all.

At every other city we were met promptly by a local guide, a driver, and a minibus. Not so in Guilin. Since they had not expected our early arrival, they kept us waiting at the airport for two hours. And then our Guilin guide's second language was Japanese, not English.

Our national guide seemed genuinely sorry that we had missed the worship service and offered to help find the church. After a brief inquiry she directed our driver to the main street in Guilin, Zhongshan (Sun Yat-sen). The guide led us down a narrow passageway to the back entrance. One of the pastors greeted us as did his sister, also a church worker, and invited us to the annex for conversation.

With pride they showed us the church building. It is spartan but worshipful. A shiny new black piano, carefully covered for protection, had recently been purchased by the congregation. Soon they will have 500 Bibles, and they anticipate hymnals in the near future.

Workers completed the refurbishing of this church in late 1982. Speaking with enthusiasm, the pastor enumerated their program of work

including an inquirer's class, weekday Bible studies, Wednesday evening services, and the Sunday services.

It was in moment such as this that we prayed silently for our guide. As the pastor spoke about former Baptist missionaries in Guilin, she listened. This set the stage for us to explain to her the reason for the baptistry and the meaning of baptism.

Marvin and Jean Bond, former Southern Baptist missionaries to Hong Kong, served as hosts for a group of Southern Baptists who toured China in May 1983. This is the fourth in a series of five articles describing the trip. Marvin and Jean Bond may be written at 208 South Washington, Starkville, MS 39759.

## Wheelchair athlete will speak in Jackson area



World class wheelchair athlete Skip Wilkins will be in the Jackson area Feb. 4-9. The young man was paralyzed in a water skiing accident three days after high school graduation in 1967. Seven years later he had become a Christian and had overcome many of the obstacles to wheelchair living, winning international wheelchair sports competitions. Wilkins will speak at First Presbyterian Church, Feb. 5 at 6:15 p.m.; at Sunday Night Live at Primos Northgate, Feb. 5 at 8:30 p.m.; and at Reformed Theological Seminary chapel, (Presbyterian), Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m. These meetings are open to the public. He will also be speaking to the singles at First Baptist Church, Jackson on Feb. 5 at 9:30 a.m. He is a member of a Bible church in Virginia Beach, Va.

## Book Reviews

**A WOMAN'S SONG**, by Joy Morgan Davis; Broadman Press; 190 pages.

The author is the former Joy Morgan of Jackson. She is the daughter of Mrs. Kate Durham Morgan of Jackson and the late W. C. Morgan, who was director of the Mississippi Baptist Music Department during his career. Mrs. Davis now lives in Dallas, Texas.

The subtitle for this book is "For women who want to live joyfully." The theme is to provide the readers with advice on how to meet situations of life and turn them into advantageous experiences. The book takes the normal experiences of life and comments on how to face them triumphantly and joyfully.

The writer says, "This is for women who want to live, fully and joyfully, with that abiding, abounding gladness that makes the morning rosy—even in the cold drizzle."

And she adds, "This is a woman's song. It is the symphony of life as she

sings it, whether she is in love or remembering when, whether she is sowing or reaping the rewards."—DTM

**THE SPECIAL GIFT**, by Margarete Peebles; illustrations by Betty Mac Wilson; printed by Printing Department, Mississippi State University; 23 pages; hard cover; \$7.95; order from Margarete Peebles, Box 104, 46 East Lee Blvd., Mississippi State, MS 39762.

In this book Margarete Peebles tells her own story of how she wanted a baby sister when she was a child. Finally the baby sister arrived, but gradually the realization came that she was retarded. The 19 pages of text and illustrations are geared for children. The preface is for parents with the purpose of pointing out that children need to be taught how to meet people who are different. The last four pages are pictures.

The book would make a valuable addition to church libraries.—DTM

**A LEGACY FOR MY LOVED**

**ONES** by Cassandre Maxwell (Flem-

ing H. Revell, 91 pp., \$9.95) This is an

album that asks questions and then

provides space for the answers, and

space for pictures. It is a beautifully

illustrated (calligraphy by Eve

Polston) book, 7" x 10" in size, that

would make it easy for the book's

owner to write his or her life story, as

a legacy for children and grandchildren.

Entries are memory joggers

and would answer questions about

such things as first date, favorite and

unfavorite things, childhood friends,

holiday traditions, answers to

prayer, first job interview, first big

trip, fears, school days, prayers and

advice for family, Christian testimony,

favorite character from Scripture, and so on. A selection of

verses divides each section. This

would be an excellent gift item. It is

valuable for giving the younger generation

a deeper understanding of the family's

heritage and teaching them

lessons in faith.—AWM

Mr. Deacon: Make sure your pastor attends this conference. It is a spiritual uplift for everyone.

You come too!

# EVANGELISM/BIBLE CONFERENCE

Gulfport, Mississippi  
First Baptist Church  
February 6-8, 1984

Theme:  
MISSISSIPPI'S GREAT  
CHALLENGE —  
CHURCH GROWTH



# James Dunn declines controversial board

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, has declined renomination to a second term on the board of directors of People for the American Way.

Dunn's membership on the 28-member PAW board has drawn considerable controversy in the past year, including a resolution adopted by the Alabama State Baptist Convention asking that funding for the BJCPA be withdrawn because of Dunn's participation in the organization.

People for the American Way is described by friends as a "national educational group" for First Amendment rights, and by enemies as an organization of "pornographic smut peddlers, homosexual activists, and baby-killing abortionists."

Despite Dunn's action declining to serve a second term, the action does not appear to have quieted his critics. One, former Alabama Congressman Albert Lee Smith of Birmingham, suggested the only way to quiet the criticism would be for Dunn to resign as BJCPA head.

Dunn told Baptist Press that on Jan. 11, 1984, "I declined renomination to the board of that organization (PAW). On that date, I told the nominating committee that since I rotated off the board Dec. 31, 1983, I would not serve a second (three-year) term."

"It is important to emphasize that I made this decision in part because of time and energy spent dealing with a very few Southern Baptists who have been engaged in a smear and harassment campaign. Leaving the leadership... (of PAW) does not reflect any retreat from working with groups with different degrees of disagreement," he said.

He noted the attacks on him and BJCPA—an organization of nine Baptist bodies in the U.S. and Canada—have "required a great deal of forbearance and forgiveness on our part."

He commented he remains "one of the 104,000 members of People for the American Way," which he described as a "broad-based people's movement." He added he believed his membership in PAW, as well as his leadership role was as "an individual... any place organization names were listed it was understood to be for identification purposes only."

One of the criticisms of PAW is that Norman Lear, producer of such television shows as "All In The Family," "Good Times," and "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman," is associated with the group.

"The fact Norman Lear is associated is irrelevant," Dunn said. "It is not his; it does not belong to him. Father (Theodore) Hesburgh (president of Notre Dame University) also is on the board and that doesn't make me a Catholic. The late Ruth Carter Stapleton was on the board, but that didn't make me a charismatic."

R. G. (Gene) Puckett, editor of the Biblical Recorder, newsjournal of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and chairman of the board of BJCPA, said the decision not to

serve a second term "is evidence of his (Dunn's) deep commitment to the best interests of all Baptists. He has preserved his own integrity but has acknowledged the responsibilities of his role to put the best interests of Baptists above other things."

Sam Currin, U.S. District Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina, and chairman of the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee, which relates to the BJCPA, said he is "glad" Dunn has resigned from the board, but hoped it was a "clean break" with PAW.

"I feel PAW is antagonistic to everything we (Southern Baptists) stand for," he said, adding he had refused to attend a BJCPA-sponsored religious liberty conference in October "because some representatives from PAW were on the program. I felt if I went, I would have betrayed the SBC."

Currin, a former aide to U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC), said he believes if Dunn "does not make a clean break" with PAW, messengers to the annual meeting of the SBC in Kansas City in June of 1984, "will defund the Baptist Joint Committee. The messengers will repudiate the Baptist Joint Committee if it has anything to do with the People for the American Way."

Smith, who served one term in the U.S. Congress, also is a member of the SBC Public Affairs Committee, having been elected in 1983. Currently, Smith is seeking the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate from Alabama.

Smith also suggested the organization faces defunding at the 1984 SBC.

Another vigorous critic of Dunn was not appeased by the announcement. Russell Kaemmerling, editor of the conservative/independent publication, *Southern Baptist Advocate*, said Dunn's membership in the PAW "is not the real issue."

"The question" Kaemmerling said, "is whether he is still sympathetic with the pornographic smut-peddlers, homosexual activists, and baby-killing abortionists who make up People for the American Way."

Kaemmerling also charged the PAW is just the most blatant thing that is wrong with BJCPA, noting the PAW membership was just "Dunn thumbing his nose at Southern Baptists."

Wallace Henley, pastor of McElwain Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., and president of the Alabama Baptist Convention, had called on Dunn to resign from the organization. Henley, a former White House staffer during the Nixon administration, was elected president of the ABC in November. He "applauded" Dunn's decision.

At the time of his election, Henley said he could "live with a whole lot" if Dunn would disassociate himself from the PAW board. He noted he still has significant disagreements with BJCPA stands on issues such as the Reagan Prayer Amendment and the nuclear freeze.

(Dan Martin is Baptist Press news editor.)

## Seminar cancelled

The 1984 Christian Action Commission seminar scheduled for Feb. 21, has been cancelled. The main speaker and seminar leader indicated that he could not speak on that date. Information about future seminars will be released at a later date.

## Copiah-Lincoln calls Smith

The Copiah-Lincoln Baptist Associations have called Talmadge E. Smith as their new director of associational missions.



Smith

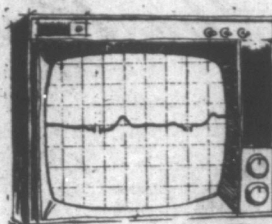
Smith succeeds Eugene Roberts, who retired Dec. 31 after 18 1/2 years there. Smith is a native of Lincoln County and is a graduate of Mississippi College. He earned the master of theology and doctor of ministries degree from New Orleans Seminary. Smith leaves the pastorate of Morgantown Church, Natchez, having served there for more than five years. He has also been pastor of Hamilton Street Mission, Brookhaven; Clear Branch Church, Wesson; and New Hope Church, Monticello. Smith and his wife Margaret, have two daughters: Mrs. Connie Doreen Ball of Monticello, and Carla, a student at Louisiana State University.

## Royal Ambassadors can compete in Speak Out

Mississippi Royal Ambassador boys in grades 10-12 have a chance to compete in a Missions Speak Out program. The national winner will receive an all expense paid trip to the Southern Baptist Convention this June in Kansas City when he will present his speech before the National Brotherhood breakfast. The winner will also receive a trip to the Grand Ole Opry where he will be the guest of Jerry Clower, the Yazoo City comedian who is helping sponsor the event

Thursday, February 2, 1984

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7



## Intensive care

Dedicated to strengthening families  
Directed by a team of family life specialists

### Dad married too soon

We have had a lot of grief in our family within the last two years—accidents, death of my mother and another family member. The grief has been compounded by my father marrying again within six months. We are having difficulty accepting the new wife into the family. It seems an immovable barrier has been erected by all this. Mother was a wonderful Christian woman. I have prayed a lot but am badly in need of advice. (long letter edited)

#### Badly in Need

Dear Badly in Need: The tragic events you describe cannot be recalled. It really remains to be seen whether your father's marriage is a tragedy or a blessing. Men seem to have more difficulty adjusting to singleness than women. Some are devastated by the death of a spouse and marry on an emotional rebound, often to their regret. Other such marriages seem to turn out well. A second mate does not take the place of the first in the heart of the husband or wife, let alone in the feelings of grown sons and daughters. Each has his/her own place.

No doubt your Christian mother was a genuine forgiving person. Can

you learn from her? You do not honor her memory by an unforgiving spirit. Jesus taught that forgiveness was unlimited. You are responsible for your own attitude and you are not responsible for your father's attitudes or actions.

Could it be that his renewed interest in the church is a way of coping with some guilt as well as his grief? He may be trying to make a fresh start.

You may not find peace until you ask your father's forgiveness for your attitude toward him (regardless of his rightness or wrongness) and then the Lord will give you the strength to demonstrate your forgiveness toward his wife. "Honor thy father and mother" does not say "only as long as they do right." We honor them because of the relationship in that we continue to have active good will toward them even when we do not like what they do.

Your father may rebuff you, claim to be entirely innocent of wrong doing, and may not ask your forgiveness for the hurt caused other family members; but your asking forgiveness is the first step of peace in your own heart. As difficult as it will be, we pray that you will have spiritual strength to do it. Then we pray that you may know the peace of God that passes all human understanding.

Inquiries to Intensive Care are welcomed. Readers who feel the need of being in touch with Intensive Care are encouraged to write. Identities remain confidential. And though the identities of those performing this ministry have been kept confidential to this point, they are well qualified for the service they are rendering. Inquiries should be addressed to Intensive Care, Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.—Editor.

Pews, pulpits, baptistries, stained glass, carpet, steeples, chairs, tables, lighting, folding doors

**Van Winkle Church Furnishings**

Bill Van Winkle  
Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843  
Phone (601) 862-9521 (collect)

We upholster existing pews.  
Check our prices before you buy.

DESIGN • CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT  
for  
New Church Buildings—Additions  
Worship/Educational/Multi-Purpose  
19 years experience

## Missionary force gain is highest since 1978

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptists last year recorded the largest percentage gain of foreign missionaries since 1978 and the second largest since 1969, a possible indication that Bold Mission Thrust is taking hold. Bold Mission Thrust is Southern Baptists' effort to share the gospel with all people by the year 2000.

A 4.01 percent net gain over 1982 resulted in part from a drop in missionary resignations and an increase in journeymen appointment for two-year terms.

Appointments for career missionaries numbered 190, the third highest ever recorded. Career resignations at a 2.61 percentage rate were the lowest since 1966. Auxiliary personnel, including journeymen,

increased 18.37 percent over 1982, about a fourth of the net gain.

The net gain of 129 missionaries and auxiliary personnel brought the total number of missionaries in service at the end of last year to 3,346.

The gain came despite a 40 percent increase in missionary retirements.

## HEADQUARTERS

### FOR ALL TYPES OF School & Church Furniture

• Complete stock of chairs, tables, desks and furnishings for Classroom, Library, Sunday School, Auditorium, Cafeteria and every School and Church use.

EVERYTHING FOR THE SCHOOL AND CHURCH

MISSISSIPPI  
School Supply Co.  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI



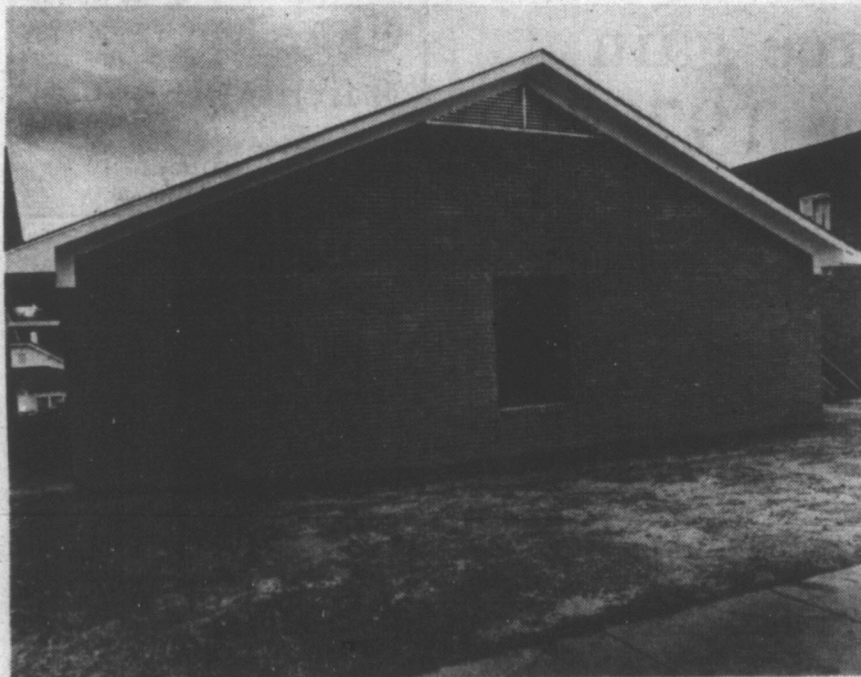
## Just for the Record



JONES COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE BSU has organized a new group called "Cherith." This sextet sang Sunday night, Jan. 22, at Immanuel Church, Laurel, in Jones County. "These dedicated young people share the gospel through music in churches, at banquets and other special events," said John F. Sumner Jr., BSU director. Members of the group are (left to right) Candy Sumner, Moselle; Kelly Elmore, Piave; Linda Mackey, Waynesboro; Lillian Blauser, pianist, Laurel; Cindy Lynch, Moselle; Garvisa Garner, Petal; Dawn Satterwhite, Coila. Harrel Wilcox, minister of music at West Ellisville Church, is the director.



CHERRY CREEK CHURCH, PONTOTOC COUNTY, in 1982 adopted the theme, "Faith is the Victory," to pay the indebtedness on the new church building dedicated in 1978. On Harvest Day, Nov. 20, 1983, the goal to pay off all church indebtedness was reached. On Jan. 1, 1984, a note burning was held with the trustees and pastor taking part. Left to right: Leighton Harkness, Leland Huffstatler, Billy Davis, pastor, and Harold Reeder.



McCOOL CHURCH at McCool recently held dedication services for a new building which contains five classrooms, two nursery departments, a kitchen, two baths, and a 26' X 64' fellowship hall. The Building Committee consisted of Jimmy Norris, chairman, David Jones, Dub Langley, Cindy Doude, and Vonitta Nunn. Mike Howell is pastor.



### M Night banner

H. C. Bailey, left, pastor of Phillipston Church, Leflore Association, and Ralph Kelly, Church Training director at the church, present the associational M Night Efficiency Attendance banner to the church which the church won. It was the first time in 15 years, Bailey reported, that the same church had not won both of the M Night banners that were presented.

Royal Ambassadors of Cumberland Church, Webster Association, held their first bike-a-thon in December, 1983. Seven boys rode a total of 83 miles, raising \$300 to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. Gene Williamson and Joe Ed Cooper are the RA leaders. Dwight Brown is the pastor.

Sound of Joy, contemporary Christian singing group, will present a concert on Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. at Pelahatchie Church, Pelahatchie. The group is an outreach of SuArt Ministries, Inc., Pensacola, Fla. Sound of Joy will also be the featured attraction for the Rankin County Baptist Association Youth Late-Nite Extra on Feb. 5, at 9 p.m. at Pelahatchie Church.

### 75th anniversary

Weir Church, Weir, will hold 75th anniversary services on Sunday, Feb. 5, at 11 a.m. with dinner to follow in the church fellowship hall. J. P. Bush, former pastor, will be the speaker. Clarence Mayo is the pastor.

Wildwood Church, Clinton, Hinds-Madison Association, has called Sid Johnson as minister of music and education. He moved from Cloverdale Church, Montgomery, Ala. Johnson is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary.

First Church, Nettleton, has called Jim Armstrong as minister of music/youth/education.

Skyline Church, Lee County, has called Paul Reynolds as pastor.

Keith Miller has resigned as pastor

## Piland believes churches are serious about growth

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — With Southern Baptist Sunday school enrollment at an all-time high of 7.6 million, the architect of a plan to reach 8.5 million by Sept. 30, 1985, believes, "We're in a strong position to attain the goal, but I do not think it is assured because the larger part is still before us."

Harry Piland, who returned in September to direct the Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday school department, initiated plans in 1979 for 8.5 by '85. He headed the denomination's Sunday school program for 1978 until his resignation last February, to become administrative pastor and minister of education at First Baptist Church, Houston, Tex.

Progress toward the 8.5 goal is ahead of schedule. Original goals called for net gains of 100,000 each in 1980-81 and 1981-82; 200,000 for 1982-83; 300,000, 1983-84; and 500,000,

1984-85. With a net increase of 150,000 in 1982, enrollment as of Sept. 30, 1982, was 7,678,604 or approximately 178,000 above the year's goal of 7.5 million.

"What the churches have going for them is a positive, strong attitude about reaching people, enrolling them in Bible study, winning them to Christ and leading them to mature and grow in the faith," said Piland. "I like to believe 8.5 has pointed them toward reaching the masses of people and toward a balanced emphasis on qualitative and quantitative growth."

While a net increase of 500,000 in 1984-85 would be the largest one-year gain since 1954, Piland said the goal begins to look small "when you think of the United States' population of 240 million, with 120 million persons who are unchurched."

## Names in the News

Larry Preston, a recent graduate of New Orleans Seminary, is available for full-time or interim pastorate. He may be contacted at Rt. 5, Box 509, Picayune, Miss. 39466 (telephone 799-1130).

Jim Keith, pastor of First Church, Richardson, Tex., and Ed Keyes, associate pastor in music of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., were to lead the annual campus revival at New Orleans Seminary Jan. 31 - Feb. 3.

Keith is a former pastor of First Church, Gulfport.

James Travis was selected by the Sunday School Board, SBC, to take part in a Bible Book Series Curriculum Development Consultation, Jan. 30-Feb. 1, at New Orleans Seminary. He was part of a team of Bible scholars assigned to review the content of forthcoming Sunday School literature on the book of Revelation. Travis, head of the Department of Biblical Studies at Blue Mountain College, has written study material for several Sunday School quarterlies in the past.

Kimberly LeAnn Brady was crowned Sweetheart Queen at America's Sweetheart Pageant staged in Harrisburg, Ill. on Nov. 26,

1983. Kimberly is the nine-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie M. Brady of Stonefort, Ill. Her father, a pastor, served several churches in Mississippi before moving to Illinois. She is a third grade honor student at Carrier Mills Grade School in Carrier Mills, Ill., and is a member of Stonefort Baptist Church where her father is pastor. Her grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brady of Louin, Miss., Conrad Saxon of Bay Springs, Miss., and Mrs. Margaret Saxon of Laurel.

John Merck, Lucedale, full time evangelist, is moving back to his home state of South Carolina. His address there is Rt. 2, Box 507C, Easley, S.C. 29640.

Donald and Anne Dent, missionaries to Singapore, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: 01 Goldhill Plaza, No. 03-19, Singapore 1130). He was born in Jackson, Miss., and considers Holly Springs, Miss., his hometown. She is from Brookhaven.

### "We're going with Jimmy, how about you?"

Minette Drumwright, widow of Huber Drumwright & SBC Foreign Mission Board; James Coggin, retired Pastor, Travis Avenue Baptist Church; Dr. Bill Tolar, Dean, Southwestern Baptist Seminary; Dr. William Bell, Professor, Dallas Baptist College; Joe Hester, Associate Pastor, Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Alabama; Monroe Broadway, Pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Redding, California; Rick Markham, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Perry, Oklahoma; Dr. Lacoste Munn, Professor, Southwestern Baptist Seminary.

WHO: Dr. Jimmy Draper, Dr. Bill Tolar, Minette Drumwright, Jim Coggin.  
WHAT: Mediterranean Cruise/Holy Land Tour. Highlighting the Life of Christ & the Journeys of Paul.  
WHEN: July 20, 1984 RT from \$2499NY\*  
WHERE: Greek Isles, Ephesus, Patmos, Istanbul, Egypt & Israel. 15 days. Featuring the King David Hotel.  
\*Commercial flights, 3 meals per day, siteseeing included.

Call or write today for a free, no-obligation brochure.  
Meier International, 1245 Karla Drive, Hurst, Texas 76053, 817/268-2246 Metro, 800/255-9200 Outside Texas

## Staff Changes

of Temple Church, Lee County.

Chuck Hampton has accepted the pastorate of Pine Grove Church, Tipah County. He and his wife, Deb, and son, Chad, moved from the pastorate of Joy Church, Henrietta, Tex. His hometown is Shannon, Miss. He is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and Southwestern Seminary, and is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Ministry program at Southwestern.





# SBC hunger gifts set record for sixth consecutive year

By David Wilkinson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptists continued their record-setting pace in gifts to worldwide hunger relief last year, surpassing the previous year's total for the sixth consecutive time.

More than \$5,996,000 was given in 1983 to hunger funds administered by the Southern Baptist Foreign and Home Mission Boards.

The Foreign Mission Board reported receipts of \$5,406,036 for world hunger, while the Home Mission Board received \$590,675 for domestic hunger. Additionally, the Foreign Mission Board received \$687,714 for general relief ministries.

The figures do not reflect monies given for hunger that were utilized in local churches, associations and state conventions.

The hunger contributions represent an overall increase of \$462,927 over the previous record of \$5.53 million set in 1982. FMB gifts increased \$122,252; HMB giving was up \$340,675.

Officials at both mission boards, along with the Christian Life Com-

mission, which coordinates Southern Baptist awareness and action on hunger issues, praised the record giving.

John Cheyne, human needs ministries consultant in the FMB, said more than 220 hunger-related projects were undertaken by missionaries and national workers in 45 countries. "In addition," he said, "the work of hundreds of lay volunteers multiplied the total benefit of the funds committed."

Even with the record giving, needs

still surpassed contributions. More than \$7.2 million—which included a \$1 million-plus balance on hand at the end of 1982—was disbursed last year through the FMB's human needs ministries office, according to Cheyne. Yet, he added, \$8.27 million in requests remained unmet. He indicated some of the most urgent needs will be met with the record \$1.85 million in hunger gifts in December.

(David Wilkinson writes for the Christian Life Commission.)

## Allergic to church? no excuse here

FORT WORTH, Texas (EP)—They gather to worship in a room with no carpeting. They sit far apart, don't shake hands and don't allow the pastor to wear aftershave lotion. They are all victims of severe allergies who have formed their own church group after years of avoiding regular services because of reactions to everything from perfume to clothing.

Last month, about a dozen people started meeting Monday nights at the University United Methodist Church.

## A. Donald Bell dies in N.M.

A. Donald Bell, 63, former promotional assistant to the president and professor of psychology at Mississippi College, died Sunday, Jan. 8, in Santa Fe, N.M.

Bell studied in London, England, upon leaving Mississippi College, then accepted a teaching position with Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex. For the past thirteen years he had resided in Santa Fe where he was active, as a member of the Santa Fe Fiesta Council, in restoration of the old city.

He was author of books on religious counseling.

He is survived by his wife, Ernie Bell; his daughter, Mrs. Judy Arrowsmith of Prescott, Ariz.; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Jan. 11, at First Presbyterian Church of Santa Fe. The family requested contributions to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Box 22000, Fort Worth, Texas 76112, in lieu of flowers. Mrs. Bell lives at 438 Acequia Madre, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501.

## Clarke plans memorial day

A special memorial service will be held at Clarke College on Feb. 10 at 10 a.m., in memory of Steven Bland, a former Clarke student. Bland was the only Mississippian to lose his life in Lebanon during the terrorist bombing in early November. Bland attended Clarke in the late 1970's and was from Mathiston.

G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery will speak at this service and will present to the college a United States Flag which has flown over the Capitol.

Students, faculty, and guests will gather in the recital hall of the Lott Fine Arts Building for the service.

## Pastor's widow dies of cancer

Funeral services for Johnnie M. Kirke, 65, widow of Paul Kirke, were held at Parkway Church, Pascagoula, on Dec. 23, 1983. Mrs. Kirke died in Singing River Hospital Dec. 21, after being hospitalized for 58 days.

She was secretary at Parkway Church at the time of her death. She had taught Bible classes in churches and in homes.

Evangelist Ed Vallowe of Forrest Park, Ga. and Kenna Byrd, pastor of Parkway, officiated at the funeral service, assisted by Arthur Schneider, retired Presbyterian minister. Two Parkway members, Gary Dunnam and S. E. McMichaels, gave testimonies. Another member, Tom Burrage, rolled the drums, and Craig Edwards, minister of music at Graceland, sang.

Survivors include two sons, John Kirke and Paul Kirke of New Orleans, La.; and three sisters, Zelma Foster of Jackson, Sarah Cameron of Canyon, Tex., and Velma Parker of Salem community.

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9  
Thursday, February 2, 1984



50 years

MRS. JOE ALEXANDER recently retired after serving First Church, Itta Bena, for 50 years as organist. The church honored her with a special day, the morning service one of special tribute and an afternoon reception in her honor. Her friends and former pupils expressed love and appreciation for what she had meant to them and to the church. Among gifts given to her were one of her organ shoes bronzed, a book of letters from present and former pastors and pupils, and a check for \$500 from the church. Charlie Murphy, left, presented to Mrs. Alexander, right, a picture of her at the console of the organ. Doyle Cummings is pastor.

## A first in Simpson

Simpson Association held its first keyboard festival Sunday, Jan. 22, at First Church, Magee. A total of 17 young people participated, representing seven churches. The judges were Mrs. Carolyn Winborne, Mt. Olive; Mrs. Brenda Jones, Magee; Mrs. Bennie Williams, Mt. Olive; Mrs. Pansy Hutchins, Mendenhall. The program was coordinated by Paul Padgett, association music director, and his Music Committee, Mrs. Jeannie West, Mrs. Jane Griffith, and Ryan Miley.

### TOP 20 CHURCHES IN NUMBER OF BAPTISMS PER 100 MEMBERS

Church Name	Assoc.	Pastor	Total Members	1983 Baptisms	Baptisms Per 100 Members
1 New Pleasantdale	Neshoba	Harold Lee	243	79	32.5
2 Antioch	Leake	Jason Sharp	84	23	27.3
3 Calvary	Jasper	Billy Partredge	118	32	27.1
4 Pleasant Ridge	Okibbeha	Richard Peeples	118	32	27.1
5 Bluff Springs	Neshoba	Ty Pigott	27	7	25.9
6 Lee Memorial	Pontotoc	Skip Holdren	37	8	21.6
7 Riverport	Washington		80	17	21.2
8 Faith Chapel	Wayne	Robert Robinson	43	9	20.9
9 Zion Rest	Wayne	John H. West	44	9	20.4
10 Fellowship	Neshoba	Alfred Jolly	74	15	20.2
11 Troy First	Pontotoc	Donnie Matthews	100	20	20.0
12 Grace Memorial	Lee	Joe Holcomb	169	32	18.9
13 East Lincoln	Lincoln	James Harris	74	14	18.9
14 Northcrest	Lauderdale	Malcolm Lewis	251	45	17.9
15 Hepzibah	Clarke	Herman Clark	56	10	17.8
16 Turners Chapel	Tippah	Dwight Faulkenberry	79	14	17.7
17 Sanford First	Covington	William C. Nobles	280	49	17.5
18 Brodie Road	Gulf Coast	Jerry Masterson	98	17	17.3
19 Lizana	Gulf Coast	Gerald H. Walker	83	14	16.8
20 Canaan	Benton	Tommy Kelley	131	22	16.7

### TOP 20 CHURCHES ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF BAPTISMS FOR 1983

Church Name	Association	Pastor	Baptisms
1. First Baptist, Jackson	Hinds-Madison	Earl Craig, Jr.	126
2. Woolmarket	Gulf Coast	Donnie Guy	106
3. Parkway, Jackson	Hinds-Madison	Bill Causey	100
4. Riverside	Jackson	Terry Long	92
5. Main Street	Lebanon	Fred Selby, Jr.	85
6. Morrison Heights	Hinds-Madison	Kermit McGregor	83
7. Cleary	Rankin	Kent Shirley	80
8. New Pleasantdale	Neshoba	Harold Lee	79
9. South Louisville	Winston	Gary Rivers	74
9. Colonial Hills	Northwest	Tommy Vinson	74
11. Southaven	Northwest	J. B. Rose	67
11. First, McComb	Pike	Alan Day	67
13. First, Lyman	Gulf Coast		61
14. Calvary	Lauderdale	W. Otis Seal	60
15. Goodrum Memorial, Vicksburg	Warren	Dwight Turner	59
16. First, Batesville	Panola	Gary Berry	58
17. Colonial Heights, Jackson	Hinds-Madison	Gerald Harris	57
18. Crossgates	Rankin	Davis Odom	55
18. First, Gulfport	Gulfcoast		55
20. Fairview	Lowndes	Gene Henderson	54
20. Immanuel	Warren	Paul D. Johnson	54

**CHURCH STEEPLES**

- BAPTISTRIES
- WALL CROSSES
- BAPTISTRY WATER HEATERS

COLONIAL CONTEMPORARY AND MODERN DESIGNS  
ERECTION WITH COMPANY CRANES AND CREWS AVAILABLE  
WRITE OR CALL FOR COLOR LITERATURE AND PROPOSALS

TOLL FREE  
**800-241-3152**

IN GEORGIA CALL  
COLLECT  
804-993-9960

GLASSTECH PLASTICS, INC.  
P.O. BOX 910  
ROSWELL GA 30077

**OLD BIBLES REBOUND**

A price, binding and style to meet every need. Quality workmanship guaranteed. Write for illustrated price folder.

"Internationally known specialists"

**NORRIS BOOKBINDING CO.**

Box 305-C — Greenwood, Miss. 38930

**Winebarger**

**CHURCH FURNITURE**

LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA

Call Toll Free  
**800-446-0945**

Area Rep  
RANDY CARTE  
609 LAMAR AVENUE  
HATTIESBURG, MISS  
39401  
601-264-1249

Pews  
Pulpits  
Chairs  
Cushions  
Renovations  
Light Fixtures  
Pew Comfort  
Chancel Furniture  
Stained Glass Windows  
Custom Interior Designs



# 13 states adopt new church annuity plan

DALLAS—Thirteen state conventions, including Mississippi, have adopted a proposed new retirement plan for Southern Baptist church personnel.

Annuity Board President Darold H. Morgan commended the leadership of the 13 Southern Baptist state conventions for taking the lead in adopting the new church Annuity Plan in 1983.

Morgan said that "it is time to challenge the churches with a new retirement plan that will ultimately provide an adequate retirement in-

come for all pastors and full-time church employees."

Of the 13 conventions adopting the plan, four selected the expanded version, which will include state contributions to all church personnel who are eligible to participate.

Although the new plan doesn't become effective until Jan. 1, 1988, state conventions need to finalize the adoption process by December 31, 1984, so that adequate preparations for implementation can be made, Morgan said.

Morgan noted that the basic plan

allows participation by all ministers serving churches cooperating with the Southern Baptist state conventions.

To receive state convention funds, the member agrees to make the initial contributions; and the church must contribute twice the member's contributions up to 10 percent of pay. The church may also elect to pay the member's part. The state convention will provide funds amounting to one-half of the church's contributions up to \$35 per month. The convention's first \$210 will be allocated to the Protection Benefit Fund to provide long-term disability and death benefits with the remainder of the contributions going directly into the individual's retirement income account.

The states adopting the expanded version of the new Church Annuity Plan will include all employees serving a cooperating Southern Baptist church. However, these employees must work 1,000 hours per year and have satisfied a three-year waiting period before state convention contributions became effective.

Those state conventions adopting the new Church Annuity Plan include Alaska, District of Columbia, Illinois, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Northwest, Tennessee, and Utah-Idaho. Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Virginia adopted the expanded version.



"Together we did"

Wade Church, Jackson County, on Christmas day burned the note on its debt retirement. In 1979 the church had a balance due of \$168,000. In November of 1980, H. (Junior) Wilks was called as pastor and under his leadership and those of the Building Committee, Charles Persons, chairman, a building program was begun. The pastor recommended to the committee that they seek together to pay off the existing debt before starting new construction.

The committee presented a three-phase building program. Phase I would be to pay off the debt. In two years, Wade Church went from a balance owing of \$125,000 to a balance marked "Paid In Full." On Christmas day, with a balance owing of \$2,800 on the week before, the church went over this amount and had a balance of over \$1,000 in the building fund account. The program for paying the debt was entitled, "Together We Will." Now the people say, "Together We Did." Pictured are the pastor, A. Wilks, Charles Persons, chairman of Building Committee, Walter Lee Waltman, chairman of deacons, Hansel Gray, Johnny Naramore, Willo Naramore, members of the Building Committee. Also pictured are the three trustees when the original note was made, Glynn Davis, Arnie Waltman, and Jack Wood.

## Seminary nixes film with suicide ending

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)—Because the gospel—not suicide—is the solution to life's problems, Jessica Lang and Tommy Lee Jones won't be filming a movie on the campus of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Warner Brothers had indicated an interest in filming part of "Everybody's All-American" on the campus of the seminary. But since Gavin Gray, the fictional University of North Carolina football star in Frank Deford's novel, sets fire to his house, killing himself and almost killing his wife, Southeastern President W. Randall Lolley declined.

"My basic problem is the movie's final solution to the human situation is suicide," Lolley told Raleigh Times reporter Williams Cohan.

"The theme is just not consistent with our theme of redemption."

"There is the gospel, which can provide a solution to people's troubles. And if any of the film were shot at Southeastern, we would be giving out mixed signals about that. We don't want to do that—it is just not our way of solving that situation."

"We realize this is not a cream-puff world. It's a tough world. But there is someone, somewhere who will see this movie and in a moment of weakness will be led to believe suicide is an answer. And that is a total contradiction to what we believe at this school."

The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill had earlier declined to allow the movie to film on its campus since it would disrupt classes.

## Mid-America grants degrees

Of the 24 who were graduated from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, in December 1983, the following were from Mississippi:

**Master of Divinity:** David R. Ard (cum laude), pastor of Shiloh Church, Oxford; Michael R. Bedford, pastor of Trinity Church, Leland; David Blackwell, Jr., pastor of Bellevue, Thaxton; William Gullick; Michael L. Johnson; Michael R. Martin; and Henry B. Tucker, associate pastor of Kirby Woods Church, Memphis.

**Diploma of Theology:** Charles Wesley Hall, pastor of Summer Avenue Church, Memphis.

**Doctor of Theology:** David R. Clark, pastor of Greenbrook Church, Southaven.

## Lottie Moon gifts

First Church, Durant, passed its Lottie Moon goal of \$4,000. On Jan. 13, the gifts amounted to \$4,243.25. A Christmas wreath was used to promote the Christmas offering for foreign missions. The wreath, made by one of the deacons, Bill Cox, contained 40 bulbs, each representing \$100. Each time \$100 was received, a bulb was turned on. Even before Christmas Day, the wreath was complete, with all 40 bulbs shining. J. Steven Delony is the pastor.

## Devotional

### The challenge of change

By Peter McLeod, pastor, First, Hattiesburg

Isaiah 43:18-19

Change is the dominant fact of our time. The winds of change come whistling through the structures of our world and, whether we like it or not, individuals and institutions are being forced to develop a stance toward change.

In my experience I have found three basic responses as we attempt to deal with change.

The first is resistance to change at all cost. At work here is the idolization of the past. For this group their theme is not "the best is yet to be," rather, they believe that the best has come and gone.

The second response to change is one of unqualified acceptance. "Neolatry," the worship of the new, is the guiding principle for this group. They are infected with the Athenian syndrome mentioned in Acts 17:21, "All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas" (NIV).

For others their approach to change is one of agonizing appraisal. They are not locked into the past, but at the same time, each new that beckons is carefully weighed in the balances of what they believe God is doing in our day.

This third approach has been the stance of believers in every age—both men and women who accomplished something significant and lasting for the kingdom of God.

Isaiah is a sterling example of one who had positive and constructive attitude toward change. In the opening verses of chapter 43 he reminds his fellow Israelites of God's great guidance in their past. But suddenly, abruptly he changes gears in verse 18 and announces, "But cease to dwell on days gone by and to brood over past history." The people, especially the religious leaders, were stuck in the rut of remembering only what God had done. "Here and now," Isaiah declares, "God is doing a new thing." In other words, wake up to the fact of what God is doing in the now—his "new thing."

Pastor Robinson of the Pilgrim fathers was seeking to encourage and strengthen his congregation as they moved from Holland to a new world. Standing on the wharf he said something we need to heed today as we face a world where change is the dominant fact and "the new" is unknown, and for some, frightening. Robinson stated, "God has yet more light to break forth from his word." In other words, stay open, stay sensitive. God has some additional word he wants us to hear, some additional work he wants us to do.

## Ford helps found rights group

WASHINGTON (EP)—Former President Gerald Ford is one of the founders of a new organization formed to promote religious rights in Eastern Europe.

Senator Charles Percy (R-Ill.); Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, of Chicago, and former secretaries of state Alexander Haig, Dean Rusk, and William Rodgers are also num-

bered among the initial members of the Advisory Council on Religious Rights in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

The council will organize action on such issues as anti-Semitic campaigns in the Soviet Union and the harassment of Catholic priests in Lithuania.

## One state RA can be SBC page

One Mississippi Baptist Royal Ambassador will be chosen to be a page at the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Kansas City this June 12-14. These pages, one per state, carry messages during the convention.

Qualifications for the representative include grades 10-12, must have earned at least two Service Aide Awards, and they must provide their own travel to and from the convention.

Sponsors should write their recommendations to Jim Didlake, Royal Ambassador consultant, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

## Pray for MKs

Feb. 3—Robert G. Magee, Columbia, USM

Feb. 17—Mark B. Watson, Philipines, Mississippi State University

Feb. 24—Catherine E. Brogan, Clinton, Hinds Junior College

**BAPTISTRIES**  
FIBERGLASS CHURCH PRODUCTS  
CALL OR WRITE FOR FREE BROCHURE  
TOLL FREE 1-800-251-0679 • TN. COLLECT 615-875-0679  
3511 HIXSON PK. • CHATTA, TN 37415

**CHURCH FURNITURE**  
At a price Any Church Can Afford  
Write or call  
**WAGONER BROS. MFG. CO.**  
Tel. (501) 675-2468  
Booneville, Arkansas 72927

**LITTLE GIANT**  
The name to remember for  
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRIES  
STEEPLES—CROSSES  
WATER HEATERS  
DIAL TOLL FREE  
1-800-231-6035  
LITTLE GIANT MANUFACTURING CO., INC.  
Dept. 27/Box 518/Orange, Texas 77630  
IN TEXAS: (409) 883-4246



**Jackson, MS 39213**

**Important Note:**  
 ...h, Richton, is listed No.  
 of Churches. Earlier in-  
 dicate this outstanding  
 e are delighted to report  
 support for and interest

First Baptist Church, Richton, is listed No. 35 on our Honor Roll of Churches. Earlier incorrect listing did not indicate this outstanding record of giving, and we are delighted to report this reflection of their support for and interest in The Village.



# Following Jesus

By Gerald P. Buckley, pastor, Parkway, Natchez  
Mark 8:27-9:1

The disciples had little difficulty accepting Jesus as Messiah. Their real difficulty was in accepting him as a suffering Messiah whom the religious and political leaders would condemn to death as a criminal. The primary emphasis of this lesson is on following Jesus in full discipleship.

The central problem of every man's life has always been his battle with himself. Next time you drive your car, learn a lesson from it. Directly in front of the driver's seat is a panel of push buttons, gauges, and instruments. They are there for a purpose, to keep you informed on what's going on inside the complex machinery: a speedometer to give you the speed and mileage, the oil and gasoline gauges to let you know about fuel and lubrication. You had better look at them occasionally. But if out on the road you keep your eyes fixed on them, anxious about the inner works, you are likely to land in the ditch. People whose thoughts are too much on themselves are in great danger. This lesson teaches us that following Jesus means to get our attention away from ourselves.

## I. Condition of discipleship (8:34)

Here we have one of the dominant themes of Jesus' teaching. It is worth noting that these words are recorded six times in the Gospels, and that they occur in all four Gospels. There are several things a man must be prepared to do if he is to live the

Christian life.

First, he must deny himself. To deny self means in every moment of life to say no to self, and to say yes to God. To deny self means to dethrone self and to enthrone God. Denying ourselves means far more than refusing to give things to ourselves. It is making ourselves not an end, but a means, in the kingdom of God. It is subordinating our clamoring ego with its preoccupation with I, me, and mine. It is a denial, not for the sake of denial as a sort of moral athletics, but for Christ's sake—for the sake of putting self into his cause.

Then, the one who would be a disciple must take up his cross. This means he must take up the burden of sacrifice. The Christian may have to abandon personal ambition to serve Christ. He may discover that the place where he can render the greatest service to Christ is somewhere where the reward will be small and where the prestige will be non-existent. He will certainly have to sacrifice time and leisure in order to serve God through the service of his fellow men. The Christian life is the sacrificial life. It is a life which is always concerned with others more than it is concerned with itself.

The true disciple must also follow Jesus Christ. This means to render obedience to Jesus. The Christian is to walk in the footsteps of Christ wherever Christ may lead.

## II. Losing and finding life (8:35)

There is all the difference in the world between existing and living. To exist is simply to have the lungs breathing and the heart beating. To live is to experience peace in the soul, joy in the heart, and a thrilling every moment. To live is to be excited over the opportunity that exists in every day God gives.

The man who plays for safety loses life. If our main mission is the constant search for safety, security, ease, and comfort, we are in danger of losing all that makes life worthwhile. Life becomes a soft and flabby thing, when it might have been an adventure. Life becomes a selfish thing, when it might have been radiant with service.

This is truth on any level. If money is hoarded, it is soon lost. If health is hoarded, it becomes hypochondria. If life is clutched, it is lost; but if it is nobly lost, it is found. If we lose ourselves in the service of Jesus Christ, we will find life in all its richness.

## III. A sharp warning (Mark 8:36-38)

To gain a whole world of things and miss the glory of Christ is life's biggest blunder. Many never experience the joy of giving themselves in love and service to other people. They do not know that marvelous mixture of humility and exaltation which is the thrill of worship. Their names are written in no Book of Life, no matter how prominently they appear in Dun & Bradstreet or the Social Register.

# Israel's wars

By Bill Causey, pastor, Parkway, Jackson  
II Kings 13:1-14:22

Two events claim our attention today. One is Israel's conflict with Syria to the North and East. The other is Israel's conflict with her "sister" nation Judah to the South. It clearly needs to be understood that Israel's conflicts are judgments of God—but also her preservation is because of the covenant-keeping God's promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (13:23).

## I. The Conflict with Syria (13:1-25)

The first King of Israel mentioned in this section is Jehoahaz. He reigned 17 years in Israel. He continued to allow worship at the shrines in Bethel and Dan. This practice was begun under Jeroboam (I Kings 12:28-31) and was intended to stop the Israelites from going to the temple in Jerusalem which was in the Kingdom in Judah. This great evil in the sight of God kindled his anger and, as judgments upon Israel, the Syrians gained control over them.

During this period the military force of Israel was greatly reduced and rendered incapable of fighting the Syrians (v. 7). Jehoahaz however, sought the favor of God (v. 4) and, while it did not occur in his lifetime, God did raise up his son Jehoash (Joash) to deliver Israel. Jehoash also did not have the wisdom to remove the offending places of worship (v. 11).

The Syrian king who had been appeasing Israel was Hazael who had become ruler by murder (8:7-15). Now he is succeeded by his son Benhadad. It was against this king in Syria that Joash was successful in recovering the lands (and influence) lost under his father Jehoahaz. This success was achieved through three victorious campaigns as predicted by Elisha (v. 25 and cf. 18b and 19).

Discipline comes when they continue in the "sins of Jeroboam" whose idea it was to establish those places of worship as attempts to lead Israel away from worshipping in the Jerusalem Temple. The kings, as responsible to God, are judged by whether they lead the people in definitive ways to worship God as God himself called for. Their failure to do so caused national disasters but not their complete destruction. This tension between truth and error, right and wrong, the true God and idolatry is the background against which their human history is acted out. The determining factor is always this pivotal issue, not the known size and strength of their armies.

Likewise, it is the righteousness and justice of God that calls for their discipline, but his loving kindness and his covenant-keeping grace preserves them.

**II The conflict with Judah (14:1-22)** Amaziah had now become King in Judah and was to reign for twenty-nine years. For the most part he did right (v. 3), but not like David had done.

A key exploit for which Amaziah would be remembered was his defeat of the Edomites. This victory and acclaim however would be his undoing, just as success sometimes ruins people today. Two great evils would come out of this.

The first evil would be that he brought back with him the gods of the Edomites and became a worshipper of them (II Chron. 25). This kindled the anger of God and marked the spiritual beginning of his collapse.

The other evil, which would bring his physical defeat in battle, would be an arrogance engendered in his character by previous apparent successes. It is this second evil which brought Israel into conflict with Judah.

## III. These conflicts can teach us today!

One lesson of this story is that God knows of and is somehow involved in the developments of history. The interpretation of history offered us by these writers is that to forsake the true God in our worship and living is to attract the powers by which we may be ultimately defeated. The moral and ethical character of a people is its ultimate line of defense. To consume away the interior life of a people through sin is finally to court destruction as in Judah.

Another lesson is that, in spite of his sin, Jehoahaz in Israel, sought out and listened to the prophet of God, Elisha (13:14-19). Amaziah in Judah would not listen to God's prophet (II Chron. 25:14-16), and was defeated. The counsel of God is not to be ignored.

A third lesson is that arrogance and pride, no matter how they are disguised, lead to miscalculations in judgment, false estimates of one's own strength, and a failure to consider the outcome of these pretensions. When the heart is lifted up against God, as though by one's strength or wealth or power he will change God's laws, one has chosen to be an adversary of the One who cannot be defeated. The result is predictable ruin.

Finally, there is no hiding place from the eventual judgment of God. There is a self-destruct mechanism in sin that finally destroys.

There is but one way to live—serve God with integrity and commitment. Always confessing our sin, we are to serve him to the uttermost of our understanding and strength.

## Uniform

# I am the Lord

By Robert Earl Shirley, pastor, Parkway, Tupelo  
Isaiah 43:1-7

The tone of our lesson this week is a far cry from most of the earlier messages of Isaiah. Whereas he has previously warned of judgment and exile, he now speaks of the return journey to and resettlement in the homeland that God has given them. What has been but a distant promise and faint glimmer of hope is now to become a reality. The captivity has lasted long enough and has served its purpose. The redemption that is spoken of is a future event that is expressed as though it had already taken place. When God makes a promise, we can accept it as final and act on it in faith. What he has promised, he will do. As he has freed them from bondage in the past, he will continue to deliver them in the days to come.

**A personal Lord (43:1-2).** The constant repetition of the "I" and "you" pronouns are indicative of the close relationship that God desires between himself and his people. This is the personal relationship that began when he created and formed them. Likewise, he has redeemed them and called them by name. They are his! In spite of all their sin, he loves them still.

Isaiah here deals with a problem that still bothers many people even today. Why are there so many sick, troubled, burdened, and lonely people in our present society? The prophet's answer may have come as

a revelation of God, but it could also have come from his own experience. God's love does not mean that one will escape all suffering and sorrow; sometimes it means just the opposite. Alan Redpath points out that "God had one son without sin, but he has never had one child without suffering, never." God's love does mean that one will not have to face these things alone. When they pass through the waters, he will be with them, and when they walk through fire, they will not be burned. They, and we, have all that is needed to face the world and endure all of its problems. It is still true in modern time that God becomes more personal and is more readily invited into our lives in hours of greatest trials.

**A historical God (43:3-4).** Their optimism is not to be based on a view from "rose-tinted glasses" that something good is going to happen to them today or that nothing bad can possibly happen. Instead, they are to rejoice in that they are in the hands of an eternal, all-powerful, ever-loving, ever-present God. One knows what God can do, for his acts are recorded on the pages of history. What he has been and done, he will continue to be and do.

The 45th chapter of Isaiah tells of the means that God used to bring about the deliverance of his people. He chose a pagan king of the Persian

Empire to be the instrument of his will. Apparently Cyrus had no idea that he was acting in this capacity when he signed the decree letting the exiles go. These verses, though, make very clear that it is the power of God that is effecting their release. The word, "savior," in verse 3 means deliverer. God, not simply Cyrus, is bringing it about. Exactly what is meant by some of the words here is unclear, but we can say positively that Jehovah is willing to pay any price required to secure their freedom.

**A present God (43:5-7).** Mankind may be interested in the past workings of his God, but he is more concerned with the present and the future. These verses reveal the abundance and the continuation of the grace of God. At the time of restoration, all nations will be called upon to surrender those who are exiles in their borders that they may return to the Land of Promise. They need not fear; they have his assurance.

A new element is added at this point that demands our attention. Previously, the prophet's message has been directed to the nation as a whole. Verse 7 speaks of the individual. Each and every person that is called by his name is the recipient of the promise. To be called by his name is to enter into a special relationship with him. He so loves us that we are compelled to love him!

005-DTM 163 1-19  
BENNETT HAROLD 00  
EXEC COMMITTEE  
460 J ROBERTSON PK  
NASHVILLE TN 37219